

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal wherein the blank has marginal edge portions, the apparatus comprising:
 - a first die member having a cavity formed therein;
 - means for producing a magnetic field disposed adjacent the cavity in said die member for selectively restraining movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal;
 - a second die member mounted for reciprocal movement toward and away from the cavity formed in said first die member;
 - means for imparting selective reciprocal movement of said second die member;

and

control means for selectively energizing said means for producing a magnetic field to selectively restrain movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal during the reciprocal movement of said second die the forming of the article.
2. (original) The invention defined in Claim 1 wherein said means for producing a magnetic field includes a plurality of electromagnets.
3. (original) The invention defined in Claim 1 wherein said cavity includes an open end.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The invention defined in Claim 4 wherein said cavity includes an open end.

6. (original) The invention defined in Claim 5 wherein said electromagnets are disposed in spaced relation about the open end of said cavity.

7. (original) The invention defined in Claim 4 wherein said control means includes a microprocessor for controlling the strength of the magnetic field produced by said electromagnets.

8. (original) The invention defined in Claim 7 wherein said control means includes a source of power coupled to said electromagnets through said microprocessor.

9. (original) The invention defined in Claim 8 wherein said control means includes armature means cooperating with said electromagnets.

10. (original) The invention defined in Claim 9 wherein said armature means includes a separate armature with each of said electromagnets.

11. (currently amended) Method for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal including the steps of:

providing a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

disposing a plurality of electromagnets spaced relation about the cavity in said die member for restraining movement of the blank of sheet metal;

positioning a blank of sheet metal having marginal edge portions over the cavity of said first die member;

providing a second die member mounted for reciprocal movement toward and away from the cavity formed in said first die member;

providing means for imparting selective reciprocal movement of said second die member; and

selectively energizing said electromagnets to selectively restrain movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal during the reciprocal movement of said second die the forming of the article.